

Claims:

1. A method for obtaining a composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units by copolymerizing:
 - 5 i) a mole % of para-phenylenediamine;
 - ii) b mole % of 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and
 - iii) 90-110 mole% of terephthaloyl dichloride

in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and containing c wt.% of calcium chloride, wherein c is within the range from 1 to 20, and wherein the ratio a : b ranges from 1 : 20 to 20 : 1, a
10 + b is 100 mole%, and i), ii), and iii) together comprise 1-20 wt.% of the mixture,
characterized in that the product b.c is less than 215 and that the composition is a crumb
with a relative viscosity η_{rel} of at least 4, wherein the crumb is defined as non-sticky
particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-15 mm.
- 15 2. A composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, obtainable by copolymerizing para-phenylenediamine; 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and terephthaloyl dichloride in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and calcium chloride, characterized in that the composition is a crumb with a relative viscosity η_{rel} of at least 4.
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3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the crumb has a relative viscosity η_{rel} between 4 and 7.
4. A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb
25 of claim 2 or 3 in water, followed by a drying step.